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Wide Railway Wreckage Unless the Government Saves the Roads.

The wreckage of railway earnings under Government operation cannot be better described than by simple comparison in plain arithmetic.

There always have been railroads which in seasons of general adversity have been able to make both ends meet. There always have been roads which, desperately poor in bad times, could not become prosperous in good times. The property deeply mortgaged to show the desperate plight of the American railway system as a whole. The property exceptionally favored can be ignored. Extremes of high and low condition dismissed from consideration, the story is fairly told by the financial decline of the general and vast truckage which threads the wide country and every day does a transportation business which is the prodigy of the world.

Before the present financial destitution no railroad man ever would have regarded the year of 1918 as of golden performance or promise. The Interstate Commerce Commission still was infatuated with its mad policy of starving the railroads. Traffic rates were held rigidly down. Coal and other supplies were steadily working up. Equipment was soaring. Labor was driving harder and harder bargains. Construction was not yet prohibitive, but it was burdensome. Operating expenses were grinding at the gross revenues.

Yet in 1918—with only one year intervening between it and Government operation—the great bulk of American railroads, weaving the country from end to end, serving its vast population, industry and business, were in paradise as compared with this second year of Government operation in 1919, with its multiplied passenger rates and its heavily increased freight charges costing the American people not merely tens of millions of dollars, but hundreds, many hundreds, of millions of dollars more a year.

Take examples here, there and everywhere, with the rarely rich and the tragically poor omitted:

In the whole year of 1918 the Baltimore and Ohio transportation bill against the public, expressed by its operating revenues at \$111,000,000, was not greatly in excess of its gross revenues for only the first eight months of this year of 1919—\$109,000,000. But for the twelve months of 1919 the net revenues—with which to meet interest, provide sinking fund requirements for the discharge of debt, pay dividends and put surplus into betterments and improvements—were more than \$22,000,000. This was an average of \$2,200,000 a month. In the first eight months of 1919 the net revenues were \$1,355,000—a monthly average of about \$169,000.

In 1916 with \$48,000,000 of gross the net revenues of the Chesapeake and Ohio averaged \$1,370,000 a month. This year they have averaged about a million. But the Chicago and Eastern Illinois averaged \$935,000 in 1916; this year so far it is \$500,000. Chicago and Northwestern with \$91,000,000 gross showed then an average of \$2,500,000; now with \$88,000,000 in eight months it is \$1,100,000.

Denver and Rio Grande's comparison of average monthly net is \$845,000 in 1918; in 1919 \$270,000. Great Northern's contrast is \$3,100,000 against \$950,000. Lehigh Valley's is \$1,200,000 against \$300,000. Louisville and Nashville's, \$1,700,000 against \$850,000. Norfolk and Western's, \$2,000,000 against \$870,000. Northern Pacific's, \$3,000,000 against \$1,700,000.

If you want to take a railroad celebrated for its trouble, Erie, with more than \$5,000,000 of gross in 1915, averaged net earnings close to \$2,000,000 a month. With \$38,000,000 of gross in the first eight months this year, Erie's net has averaged \$90,000.

If you want to take another, once a child of fortune, now in poverty row, New Haven, with \$70,000,000 of gross in 1919, averaged more than \$2,000,000 a month net. With \$68,000,000 of gross in the first eight

months of 1919, the average net is \$650,000 a month.

If you want to take a great transcontinental system gone behind a sudden cloud, Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, with \$100,000,000 of gross in 1918, averaged a net of more than \$3,000,000 a month. For the first eight months this year St. Paul, with \$85,000,000 of gross, has averaged a net of \$1,500,000 a month.

If you want to take two marvellous earners in recent history, Union Pacific, with \$105,000,000 of gross in 1918, had a net of \$4,000,000 a month. Southern Pacific, with a gross of \$60,000,000 in the first eight months of 1919, Union Pacific has averaged a net of \$2,000,000 a month. Southern Pacific, with a gross of \$152,000,000 in 1916, gave an average net of \$4,500,000 a month. Southern Pacific's gross of \$105,000,000 for the first eight months of 1919 has given an average net of \$2,085,000 a month.

Then take the giants of American—of all transportation. New York Central did a gross of \$206,000,000 in 1916, with a net of \$76,000,000, averaging about \$6,365,000 a month. With \$200,000,000 of gross for the first eight months of this year, the net is \$30,000,000—an average a month of about \$3,800,000.

Pennsylvania in 1916 had a gross of \$220,000,000, a net of about \$85,000,000 and a monthly average of about \$5,400,000. This year, with a gross for the eight months of \$240,000,000, the net is \$14,953,000—an average of about \$1,870,000. In round numbers a quarter of a billion of dollars of business done in two-thirds of a year. A business of \$1,000,000 a day. And a net at the rate of a little more than \$22,000,000 a year to pay everything after operating expenses—to pay interest on and cut down the principal of hundreds of millions of dollars of debt, to pay dividends on \$500,000,000 of stock, to keep up, to protect, to provide for the future of a railway property which has in it more than a billion of dollars of investment, with more than 100,000 direct stockholders and hundreds of thousands of indirect security holders, through savings bank depositors and life insurance policy holders.

If between now and December 31 the United States Government turns the railroads back to their owners with no relief from the stupendous plight into which they have been dragged by Government operation, the crash of bankruptcy will resound around the globe; for down with the American railway system will go American industry, American business and American bread and butter. Without the American railway system at its very best, in place of the worst of to-day, this nation cannot stand up in the world arena of production and distribution. In the battle for economic supremacy the American people cannot hold their own. The American people, in truth, as civilization has known them in the last half century, cannot survive.

**A Campaign of No Personalities.**

New Jersey is to have a political campaign free from attacks on the personality of Woodrow Wilson if Chairman Stokes of the Republican State Committee can have his way. He has urged the Republican candidates and speakers not to be lured into bypaths but to stick to public questions and to refrain from aspersions which even the most sensitive or malicious of their opponents could misinterpret into slighting comments on Mr. Wilson as an individual. This is good taste and good political tactics, with Mr. Wilson's tact the generous American electorate is not in a mood to tolerate trivial assaults on him or attacks not based on public concerns.

What New Jersey thinks of Democratic men and measures has been recorded at the polls. It gave the Democratic candidate for President 170,282 votes in 1912, against 145,400 for Roosevelt and 88,834 for Taft. The Republican-Progressive row turned New Jersey's Electors of President and Vice-President over to the Democrats. But four years later the Republicans carried the State by a vote of 289,332 against 211,645. In 1916 the White House tried to have Senator MARTINE defeated in the Democratic primaries, and MARTINE was nominated, only to be beaten by a Republican at the polls. In 1918 the Administration at Washington supported the cause of two Democrats, running for the long and short terms in the Senate of the United States. Both of them were beaten. Since the Democratic victory in 1912 New Jersey has changed its delegation in Washington from two Democratic Senators and eleven Democratic Representatives, with one Republican Representative, in the Sixty-third Congress, to two Republican Senators, and seven Republican Representatives, with five Democratic Representatives, in the Sixty-sixth Congress.

The electorate in New Jersey has put its opinion of Democratic policies on record where all may read.

**Hints to a Cornell Alumnus Who Cannot Leave His Country.**

One graduate of Cornell, MARIO G. MENOCAL, '88, has informed his fellow alumnus of his regret that he cannot be with them in their campaign for a \$5,000,000 endowment fund to increase the salaries of the faculty. Alumnus MENOCAL explains that the law of Cuba prevents the President of that republic from leaving the island during his term of office; and he is President.

Some enterprising member of the Cornell Semi-Centennial Endowment Campaign Committee might suggest to Alumnus MENOCAL that he could go begging for his alma mater's profes-

sors right there in Cuba. Not among the Cubans, but among the Americans. If half the threats of the thirty are carried out, Cuba, where bacardi is still lawful and where champagne from the States has gone by the shipload, will be full of Americans this fall and winter.

Alumnus MENOCAL could catch these exiles all over Havana from now until the last race is run at the Havana course on Easter Monday. He could find them walking on the Prado or driving along the Malecon; sunning themselves down by the Punta or scrutinizing the lizards on the walls of the Morro. He could catch them on the roofs of the Plaza or of that inn of the two brothers where the fish cooked in paper would make the Caribbean worth visiting if the Gulf Stream turned to ice.

Yankees will be everywhere in Havana this winter. The old steamer lines are back in their lanes and new ones are making up cruises which include the bright old city. They will be at prayer in the cathedrals, at lunch in the big hotels along the Plaza or in the restaurants of the Calle O'Reilly. They may be seen inspecting the lasting architecture which the Spaniards left in the business district or viewing the odds on the slates of the bookmakers at the racing park which Americans own. And they will all have money. Cuba is the very place for a Cuban alumnus of Cornell to collect American coin for the good college at Ithaca.

**The Coastal Canal Conference.**

The conference to be held this morning in City Hall under a call issued by the New York-New Jersey Port and Harbor Development Commission will afford an opportunity for discussion of the proposed canal across New Jersey from the lower bay near Morgan to the Delaware River near Bordentown. Surveys for the canal have been made, and recommendations in its favor have been submitted to Congress by the War Department.

This New Jersey canal is a part of the projected inside waterway along the Atlantic coast the advantages of which in national defense and national commerce have been explained repeatedly by military and transportation experts. Consequently the plan cannot be regarded as of interest to New Jersey alone. New York is as deeply concerned in it as our neighbor across the North River.

Numerous civic and commercial associations have been invited to send representatives to the conference to-day, and it will offer a chance for all who favor or oppose not only this particular canal but the whole design of a coastal waterway paralleling the ocean to be heard.

**Attempts to Reform Our Diplomatic and Consular Service.**

The desire to raise the standard of the diplomatic and consular service of the United States has spread to the fields of practical business men. Last week at the convention of the American Manufacturers Export Association, which 2,000 delegates attended, resolutions were adopted calling for important reforms in the foreign service of the State Department.

The association declared that with the exception of Ambassadors and Ministers the entire diplomatic and consular system should be placed under civil service regulations; that the first Secretary of an embassy or legation should have life tenure; that salaries should be increased; that applicants for minor positions should be subjected to a severe examination in international law, history, economics and politics; that better provision should be made for the living expenses of diplomats and consuls, and that the United States should own its own official residences abroad.

All this is very much in line with the efforts now being made by the National Civil Service Reform League. Recently in a preliminary statement the league's committee on foreign service besides urging most of the reforms endorsed by the Export Association went even further in the matter of merit appointments and declared that Ministers ought to be appointed by promotion. Indeed, it was recommended that the President be urged, "in as far as practicable," to promote Ministers to embassies where to vacant positions.

Consuls, said the committee, should be graded, and the holders promoted after a reasonable period of service in each grade. The grade of consul-general should come as a promotion from the ranks of the consuls. The league's committee would have written examinations for consular clerks, salaried vice-consuls, consuls and student interpreters; and oral examinations afterward to determine whether the candidate's personality was fitted for the post.

On the subject of Ambassadors' salaries the league presented interesting contrasts between the remuneration of the Americans and those of other Powers. Our Ambassador to the Court of St. James's receives \$17,500, with no allowances for rent or entertainment, while the French Ambassador, whose salary is only \$7,722, has rent and entertainment allowances of \$10,000 and \$28,000 respectively. The British Ambassador to the United States has a salary of \$48,665 and a rent allowance of \$10,000. Our Ambassador to France has no pecuniary support from the Government beyond his salary of \$17,500; but the French Ambassador to Washington has a total of \$37,413. Before the czar's fall the French Ambassador in Petrograd had in salary and for rent and entertainment, \$45,521; the British Ambassador, \$48,832; the American, \$17,500. In Berlin Sir Edward Goschen received \$48,892; M. CAMBON, \$33,938; Mr. GERARD, \$17,500.

Another interesting table which the league compiled was for the purpose of indicating how inexperienced our Ambassadors are as compared with those of other great nations. The outbreak of the war found in Berlin Sir Edward Goschen, who had been in the British diplomatic service forty-five years; M. CAMBON, a French diplomat for seventeen years, and JAMES W. GERARD, who served 381 days. In Brussels were the Frenchman KLOBUKOWSKI, of twenty-five years' service; the Englishman VILLIERS, of twenty-nine years' service, and the American WHITLOCK, of eight months' service. In Petrograd were PALLOUS for France, a diplomatic veteran of thirty-one years' experience; BULGARAN for Great Britain, thirty-nine years in the service, and MAYRE for the United States, one month's diplomatic experience. Of the Ambassadors in Vienna M. DUMAINE had known diplomacy for thirty-five years; Sir MAURICE DE BUNSEN, twenty-six years; Mr. PENFIELD, thirteen months. In Rome the French Ambassador had thirty-three years' experience; the Briton, thirty years; the American, fourteen months. In every capital of Europe the story was the same. Mr. PAGE, at London, had been at his post a year and four months, and that was longer than any other American Ambassador or Minister in the war countries. Of the ten American Ambassadors and Ministers respectively at Berlin, Bern, Brussels, Constantinople, London, Paris, Petrograd, Rome, Tokio and Vienna, not one except Mr. PENFIELD had had diplomatic experience previous to his appointment by President Wilson.

It is too much to hope for immediate reforms in our diplomatic and consular service. The fact that Mr. BRYAN, as Secretary of State, was permitted to reward the political hacks of his party, particularly those who had been delegates to Democratic national conventions, by sending them as Ministers to the uncompensated republics of Central America and the Caribbean was a good indication of what was coming. The fact that his appointees, or most of them, remain undisturbed years after BRYAN's dramatic farewell is further indication that no cleaning out can be expected until BRYAN's party is turned out.

**Lessons From Lieutenant Maynard's Flight.**

The principal good to be gained from such aerial contests as the transatlantic flight won by Lieutenant MAYNARD lies in the revelation of strength and weakness in the types of planes and engines used by the fliers. Lieutenant MAYNARD is thoroughly satisfied with the motor on which he depended, and he is convinced that airplanes carrying passengers and freight will be in use within a "year or two." In his opinion these carriers will have enclosed engine rooms, in which the machinery may be watched and cared for as it is in ships. He does not criticize the plane, but he points out that in military airplanes many desirable features are sacrificed to speed and other military needs.

As to Lieutenant MAYNARD's skill as an aviator, Sergeant KLINE, who accompanied him on his double crossing of the continent, is a witness as enthusiastic as he is competent. To him Lieutenant MAYNARD is "the greatest flier in the air service to-day," a "natural born flier with a keen instinct for direction." As Lieutenant MAYNARD has won the two most ambitious flying contests undertaken over this continent—the New York-Toronto race and the race from New York to San Francisco and return—Sergeant KLINE's praise is upheld by the record.

An interesting detail of Lieutenant MAYNARD's success is the fact that he attributes the early advantage he won to the fact that he flew "straight ahead by compass." The production of a compass on which dependence could be placed under all conditions in an airplane has occupied the attention of numerous students of the science of aeronautics, and the use of the compass by the flier of the instrument supplied to him shows that excellent results have been attained in this field.

It will not pass without comment that two of the recent successful efforts, the pluckiest and the smartest, to thwart burglars have been made by members of the "wagker" sex. One woman, single handed and at night, drove off a burglar gathering loot in her home. The other prevented the emptying of a bank vault by armed desperadoes by coolly firing—looking into an automatic, her hands up the while—and operating with her foot an electric device which brought the police. We refrain from making the suggestion, for it is too obvious, that threatened premises might diminish risk by adding to their protective force a few women guards.

The possible result of the coal strike may be a freeze out of the public.

The cigarette impaired the health of 2,000,000 soldiers in our army, according to the contention of Dr. CLARENCE T. WILSON, but he would have some difficulty in convincing the German soldier of the truth of his statement.

It is reported by a Russian correspondent that twenty-four Yankees in Siberia fought like Cossacs in a last stand. It is a question, however, whether the Red Cossacs fought were as much savages as those American soldiers encountered in Bolshevikia.

**How to Live Long in Ohio.**

Dr. O. M. Kramer, physician at the prison, lays claim to the fact that the penitentiary is the most healthful spot in all Ohio. With a population of two thousand men of all ages, the deaths in five years from natural causes have not averaged more than three a year. The average death rate of Ohio is nearly fourteen for each thousand of population.

**First Turkey—Joined the Barnyard League?**

Second Turkey—Yes, but the farmer has six votes and an axe.

**First Baby—Gone on strike yet?**

Second Baby—I can't; I'm a boss.

**The Head in the Clouds.**

Said the Mountain to the Sea, Looking downward blandly: "I am one of high degree."

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## MAKING SIX OF ONE.

Each Dextrous Euclid Arrives at the Same Result in a Different Way.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Of late several correspondents have written letters to you explaining the new mathematical phenomenon that six equals one. In reading these letters I have received the impression that the solutions offered are all too difficult and so I applied myself to the task of finding an extremely simple solution.

Let us start with the equation 1=1. It will be admitted that multiplication is nothing more than continued addition, for example, 2x4 is equivalent to 2+2+2+2 or 8. It will also be admitted that if both sides of an equation are equally affected the result is equal. So, then, since 1=1, we may add 5 to both sides of the above equation multiply 1 by 1 six times, and on the other side add 1 to 1 six times, as follows: 1x1=1+1+1+1+1+1 or 1x1=1+1+1+1+1+1, or 1=6.

How simple! I am sure that this is the sort of "logical, mathematical" reasoning which will result in arriving at the great conclusion, and I am amazed that that dull mass, the American public, can refuse to agree with it.

JAMES V. HAYES.  
New York, October 16.

**Handle Carefully the Square Root of a Negative Quantity!**

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Your higher mathematics have apparently gone to the very root of the matter, but have they really grasped the significance of the result? It sticks in my mind that the square root of a negative quantity is highly imaginary and may easily land the ingenious extractor in the fourth dimension, of which Don Marquis has so recently warned us that it is much easier to get in than to get out again.

In mathematical form, if  $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$ , then the square root of  $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$  anything we wish to have it. This I take to be the general form of the equation under which we have lived these seven years.

ALBERT M. TURNER.  
Northfield, Conn., October 18.

**An Easy Way, in Which the Square Root Need Not Be Extracted.**

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The extraction of the square root is a process painful to all but a very limited class of mathematicians. It is a process which should not be employed in discussing a problem of public interest unless all other methods fail. Fortunately this problem may be solved without recourse to any but elementary principles of algebra which, with Latin, Greek and sociology, is now within the knowledge of every boy and girl that has gone through our grammar schools. Now for the proof:

Let  $x=3$  (India, Australia and New Zealand).

Let  $y=3$  (Great Britain, Canada and South Africa).

Square them:  $x^2=9$  and  $y^2=9$  and  $x+y=6$ .

As  $x$  and  $y$  are the same thing are equal to each other it follows that  $x=y=x^2=y^2$ .

Divide this equation by  $x-y$  we have the result:  $1=x+y$ , and substituting the values of  $x$  and  $y$  we have  $1=3+3$ , or  $1=6$ . Q. E. D.

I believe the above to be correct, but not trusting myself owing to the remoteness of the period in which I dealt in mathematical problems I submitted the foregoing to a freshman who has checked it up and assures me it is sound.

H. W. M.  
Philadelphia, Pa., October 18.

**BROOKLYN TREES.**

The Park Department Helps the Citizen to Beautify the Streets.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: My attention has been called to an article in your column of October 16, in which relative to the planting of trees in Brooklyn along these lines it might be well to bring this matter to the attention of your readers.

For several years the Park Department in Brooklyn has been planting trees on the streets. The plan adopted permits the department to act as trustee for the owner, receiving the necessary funds from owners and using them in the work of buying and planting trees. The standard charge is \$3 a tree, but \$16 is charged where the grade is larger and a well is provided. This is the same charge as in Manhattan, and for four years ago, and a street tree therefore enjoys the position of being about the only thing that hasn't gone up in price with the cost of living. This is partly explained by the fact that the after care of these trees is undertaken out of the general funds provided for the care of street trees. It is also possible to plant trees in Brooklyn at considerably less expense than in Manhattan.

While there have been failures here and there, and great damage was done to the young trees by the severe winter of 1917-1918, the trees generally have thrived and are making a fine showing. More than 5,000 have been planted, and the demand is constantly increasing.

The large variety of trees from which we may choose to plant along our country roadsides has to be considerably curtailed when it comes to planting on city streets. Enemies are numerous and the conditions hard for a city tree. One of the things which make a city tree so hard to grow is the Oriental plane or sycamore, and next to that comes the Norway maple. Pin oak and ginkgo and a few others do well.

Anybody in Brooklyn who desires to plant a tree should send for an application blank to the Park Department, Litchfield Place, Fifth Street and Prospect Park West, between 5th and 6th Aves. Advice and suggestions on the subject will be cheerfully given.

JOHN N. HARMAN, Commissioner.  
Brooklyn, October 18.

**The Odds.**

First Turkey—Joined the Barnyard League?

Second Turkey—Yes, but the farmer has six votes and an axe.

**First Baby—Gone on strike yet?**

Second Baby—I can't; I'm a boss.

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